

## CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

**Title of publication:** Vice: Volume 9 Number 2

**Other known title(s):** Vice: February 2011 (Volume 9, Number 2)

**OFLC ref:** 1100271.000

**Medium:** Magazine

**Distributor:** Vice New Zealand

**Editor:** Royce Akers

**Publisher:** Vice Australia & New Zealand

**Country of origin:** Australia, New Zealand

**Language:** English

**Applicant:** Secretary for Internal Affairs

<b>Classification:</b>	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
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**Descriptive note:** None

**Display conditions:** When the magazine is on public display, the classification given to the magazine must be shown by way of a label issued in accordance with a direction under section 36(A)(2) and affixed to the front cover.

**Date of entry in Register:** 13 May 2011

**Date of direction to issue a label:** 13 May 2011

### Summary of reasons for decision:

'Vice: Volume 9 Number 2' is classified as objectionable except if it is restricted to adults. This is because of the way it treats matters of sex and the crime of drug use.

'Vice' is a free magazine intended for culturally-engaged young adults with an interest in urban lifestyle, street fashion and music. The current issue contains a "pictorial" consisting of seven images taken by a well-known photographic artist that present bare-breasted women bound in a way that simulates sexual bondage. Lacking maturity and experience, young readers may well believe that the images show sexual violence or coercion. However, for adult readers the photographs are clearly stylised simulations of a sexual practice, with no indication of violent or sinister content, or of lack of consent. The issue also contains a fashion spread showing models sharing cannabis smoke. The Office considers that this content has significant potential to

encourage cannabis use amongst teenagers. The use of young models adds weight to these concerns.

The Classification Office has considered the effects of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 on the application of all the classification criteria. The magazine is clearly directed at adult readers. The inclusion in this issue of sexual images intended for adults, and the extent and degree to which a fashion spread promotes and encourages the use of an illegal drug, render the availability of the magazine likely to be injurious to the public good unless it is restricted to adult readers.